Utility of providing special status to States

1427. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission while reviewing utility of special category status to States has decided to withdraw the status from them since, it has not benefited achieving desired objective of overall development and has to jeopardizing the viability and validity of such States;

(b) whether Planning Commission has also pointed out that special category status conferred to certain States *viz*. Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and North Eastern States have not yielded desired results including industrialization in spite it has caused major heartburning among neighbouring States; and

(c) if so, to what extent would be loss to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No decision has been taken to withdraw the Special Category status given to certain States.

(b) and (c) The Eleventh plan document has recognized that the industrial incentives have stimulated industrial activity in the beneficiary States. However, taking into account complaints received from various States regarding flight of capital to beneficiary states, the Eleventh Plan document has underlined the need for consideration of replacing the incentives, fully or partly, by an accelerated programme for infrastructure development.

Socio-economic gap between Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

1428. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the 51st meeting of the National Development Council held on June 27, 2005 the issue concerning socio-economic gap between Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and others was discussed;

(b) if so, what guidelines were designed by the Finance Ministry or Planning Commission to implement the said guidelines; and

(c) the provisions that were made for SC/ST in the Union Budget of 2007-08 and 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that in the 51st meeting of the National Development Council held on 27th June, 2005, the issue concerning socio-economic gap between Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and others was discussed and it was suggested that Special Component Plan (SCP) now renamed as Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) should be made an integral part of Annual Plans as well as Five Year Plans, making provisions therein non-divertible and non-lapsable, with the clear objective of bridging the socio-economic gap between the SC/ST's and others.

(b) Yes Sir, Planning Commission has issued guidelines for formulation, implementation and monitoring of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) to State/UT Government in 2005 and to the Central Ministries/Departments in 2006 respectively and the copy of which is enclosed as Statement-I and II (*See* below).

(c) At present 17 Central Ministries/Departments are implementing SCSP and TSP. Ministry-wise details are given in Statement 21 in Expenditure Budget 2008-09, Volume-I, February, 2008 at Page 65 to 70.

Statement-I

A Note consolidating the existing Guidelines for formulation, implementation and monitoring of Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plan for Scheduled Tribes in 2005

Detailed guidelines relating to the Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes and the Tribal Sub-Plan for the Scheduled Tribes have been issued by the concerned departments of the Central Government from time to time.

The basic objective to both these Sub-Plans is to channelise the flow of outlays and benefits from the general sectors in the Plan of States for the development of Scheduled Castes and Schedules Tribes at least in proportion to their population, both in physical and financial terms. The Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan has noted that several State Governments have not earmarked adequate funds to SCP and TSP, proportionate to the share of SCs and STs in the population.

The importance of the SCP and TSP has been again underlined by the Hon'ble Prime Minister while addressing the 51st Meeting of the National Development Council held on 27th June, 2005. The Prime Minister had then stated that "in the mid-1970s, the Special Component Plan and the Tribal Sub-Plan were initiated. Tribal Sub-Plans and Special Component Plans should be an integral part of Annual Plans as well as Five Year Plans, making provisions therein non-divertible and non-lapsable, with the clear objective of bridging the gap in socio-economic development of the SCs and STs within a period of 10 years".

In this context, the following guidelines with respect to SCP and TSP are once again reiterated so that the same may be followed strictly in the preparation of the Annual Plans for 2006-07.

Objectives: The following should be the broad objectives of the SCP and TSP

- Substantial reduction in poverty and un-employment.
- Creation of productive assets in favour of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to sustain the growth likely to accrue through development efforts.
- Human resource development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by providing adequate educational and health services, and

- Provision of physical and financial security against all types of exploitation and oppression.

Action Plan: To fulfill the above objectives the following points may be taken into account for formulating SCP and TSP

1. Earmarking of funds for SCP/TSP from total State Plan outlay at least in the proportion of SC/ST population to the total population of the State/UT.

2. Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan funds should be non-divertible and non-lapsable.

3. Making the Social Welfare Department/the Department concerned with the welfare and development of SCs/STs as nodal department for formulation and implementation of SCP/TSP.

4. Placing the funds earmarked for SCP/TSP at the disposal of the nodal department concerned which in turn will reallocate the funds to the sectoral departments for implementing schemes directly relevant to SC/ST development.

5. Placing the funds earmarked for SCP/TSP under separate budget head/sub-head for each development department implementing SCP and TSP. In this connection it may be noted that the List of Major and Minor Heads of Account of **Union and States** as issued by the Controller General of Accounts provides that Tribal Sub Plan (code 796) and Special Government Plan (789) may be opened as Minor Head below the functional Major Head/Sub Major Head wherever necessary.

6. Special Central Assistance (SCA) both for the SCP and for the TSP is being extended by the Centre to the States as a 100% grant meant to fill critical gaps and missing inputs for family-oriented income-generating schemes and supporting infrastructure development with a special focus on BPL families. Guidelines issued in this connection should be strictly followed.

Components of SCP and TSP

1. Only those schemes should be included under SCP/TSP that ensure direct benefits to individuals or families belonging to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes.

2. Outlay for area oriented schemes directly benefiting Scheduled Castes hamlets/villages having a majority of Scheduled Castes population/tribal hamlets and villages may be included in SCP and TSP.

3. Wage component, especially under rural employment schemes, should not be included under SCP/TSP.

4. Scheme to develop agriculture and allied activities like animal husbandry, dairy etc. that provide a source of livelihood of the SC and ST population should be included.

5. Innovative projects that draw upon institutional finance to supplement plan allocations may be drawn up.

Creation of general awareness of SCP/TSP schemes

State Governments should take initiative to generate awareness among the general public about the schemes to be implemented/being implemented for the development of SCs and STs by the different departments of the State Governments through electronic and print media.

Monitoring of SCP and TSP

1. State and District/Block level Monitoring Committees should be constituted to monitor the implementation of various schemes under SCP and TSP of various development departments. The District/Block level committees may review the progress of implementation of schemes and utilization of funds on monthly basis and the State level committees may review the progress on quarterly basis.

2. District and Block level committees may be constituted on the pattern of District and Block level committee constituted by the Ministry of Development by involving electing members (MPs, MLAs and Panchayat members, and other prominent leaders in the districts) or the same committees may be entrusted with the responsibilities for monitoring of these programmes.

3. The nodal department should ensure timely release of funds to the concerned development departments who in turn should ensure immediate release of funds soon after the receipts of funds from nodal department to their field level implementing agencies. Any lapse on the part of field level implementing agencies in timely utilization of funds and proper implementation of the schemes may be viewed seriously.

4. Non-earmarking of funds under SCP and TSP may result in non-approval of Plans of the State/UTs.

5. Ministries of Social Justice and Empowerment and Tribal Affairs will be actively involved in the process of finalization of Annual Plans of the States/UTs.

6. Evaluation to assess the impact of economic development schemes implemented under SCP, on the socio-economic conditions of SCs may be get conducted by the nodal department on regular basis. Dissemination of information to SCs all over the State/UT about the schemes/programmes available for their development may be the responsibility of the nodal department. The nodal department may also ensure the follow up of the schemes implemented and maintenance of proper records on assets created under SCP in District/Block etc.

Statement-II

Guidelines for formulation, implementation and monitoring of Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plan for Scheduled Tribes in 2006

Detailed guidelines relating to the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for the Scheduled Tribes (STs) have been issued by the concerned departments of the Central Government from time to time.

The basic objective to both these Sub-Plans is to channelise the flow of outlays and benefits from the general sectors in the Central Ministries/Departments for the development of Scheduled Castes and Schedules Tribes at least in proportion to their population, both in physical and financial terms. The Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan has noted that several Central Ministries/Departments have not earmarked adequate funds to SCSP and TSP, proportionate to the share of SCs and STs in the population.

The importance of the SCSP and TSP has been emphasized by the Hon'ble Prime Minister while addressing the 51st Meeting of the National Development Council held on 27th June, 2005 and no subsequent occasions. In this context, the following guidelines with respect to SCP and TSP are once again reiterated so that the same may be followed strictly in the preparation of the Annual Plans for 2007-08.

Objectives: The following should be the broad objectives of the SCP and TSP

- Ensuring that the share of resources spent for the benefit of the SCs and STs is at least in proportion to their share in population of the country.
- Substantial reduction in poverty and un-employment among the SCs and STs.
- Creation of productive assets in favour of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- Human resource development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes through specifically providing adequate educational and health services, and
- Provision of physical and financial security against all types of exploitation and oppression.

Action Plan: To fulfill the above objectives the following points may be taken into account for formulating SCP and TSP:—

1. Earmarking of funds for SCSP/TSP from Central Ministry/Department Plan outlay at least in the proportion of SC and ST population to the total population of the country. Non-earmarking of funds under SCSP and TSP may result in non-approval of Plans of the Central Ministries/Departments.
2. Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan funds should be non-divertible.

3. A dedicated unit may be constituted in every Central Ministry/Department for the welfare and development of SCs and STs as nodal unit for formulation and implementation of SCSP and TSP.

4. The nodal dedicated unit should be responsible for ensuring that the funds will be allocated to the sectoral units in the departments to implement schemes directly relevant to SC and ST development.

5. Placing the funds earmarked for SCP/TSP under separate budget head/sub-head for each Central Ministry/Department for implementing SCP and TSP. in this connection it may be noted that the List of Major and Minor Heads of Account of Union and States as issued by the Controller General of Accounts provides that Tribal Sub Plan (code 796) and Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (789) may be opened as Minor Head below the functional Major Head/Sub Major Head wherever necessary.

Components of SCP and TSP

1. Only those schemes should be included under SCSP/TSP that ensure direct benefits to individuals or families belonging to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes.

2. Outlay for area oriented schemes directly benefiting Scheduled Castes hamlets/villages having a majority of Scheduled Castes population/tribal hamlets and villages may be included in SCP and TSP.

3. Among the various programmes for the benefit of the SCs and STs, priority should be given for providing basic minimum services like primary education, health, drinking water, nutrition, rural housing, rural electrification and rural link road.

4. Scheme to develop agriculture and allied activities like animal husbandry, dairy development, vocational training, etc. that provide a source of livelihood of the SC and ST population should be included.

5. Innovative projects that draw upon institutional finance to supplement plan allocations may be drawn up.

Creation of general awareness of SCP/TSP schemes

Central Ministries/Departments should take initiative to generate awareness among the general public about the schemes to be implemented/being implemented for the development of SCs and STs by the different Central Ministries/Departments through electronic and print media.

Monitoring of SCSP and TSP

1. Central Ministries/Departments will be responsible for monitoring compliance with SCSP/ TSP component of Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Appropriate arrangements should be made with State Governments to ensure accurate and timely flow of information.

2. The Planning Commission shall monitor the progress of SCSP and TSP at the time of the half yearly and annual performance reviews of the Ministries/Departments.

3. The nodal dedicated unit should ensure that funds are released to the concerned implementing agency in a timely fashion and should ensure immediate release of funds to the field level implementing agencies. Any lapse on the part of field level implementing agencies in timely utilization of funds and proper implementation of the schemes may be viewed seriously.

4. Ministries of Social Justice and Empowerment and Tribal Affairs may be involved in the process of finalization of Annual Plans of the Central Ministries/Departments.

5. Evaluation of the impact of various development schemes implementation under SCSP and TSP, on the socio-economic conditions of SCs and STs should be conducted by the Central Ministries/Departments on regular basis. Dissemination of information no SCs and STs in the country about the schemes/programmes available for their development will be the responsibility of the nodal dedicated unit of SC and ST in the Ministry. The dedicated unit of SC and ST may also ensure the follow up of the schemes implemented and maintenance of proper records on assets created under SCSP and TSP in the Ministry.

Plan allocation towards SCSP and TSP

1429. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines that were issued by Planning Commission to the Central Ministries for Plan allocation towards Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP);

(b) the details of revised expenditure amount for Financial Year 2007-08 and 2008-09 in the Union Budget; and

(c) the details of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan made by various Central Ministries during above Financial Years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. Guide lines were issued in 2006 for allocation towards Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) by the Planning Commission to Central Ministries/Departments. As per the guidelines all the Central Ministries/Departments have been requested to earmark funds under SCSP and TSP from the Plan outlay at least in the proportion of SC and ST population to the total population of the country.

(b) and (c) Revised expenditure figures are not provided in the Union Budget. However, Revised Estimates for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 under SCSP and TSP as provided in the Union Budget for the years 2008-09 and 2009-2010 are given in Statement 21 at pages 65-70 in the Expenditure Budget 2008-09 (Vol. I) February, 2008 and Statement 21 at pages 69-76 in the Expenditure Budget 2009-2010 (Vol. I) July, 2009 respectively.